

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 18-33 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 12, 16, 17, 39, 43, 44, 48-54, 57, 61, 62, and 65-70.

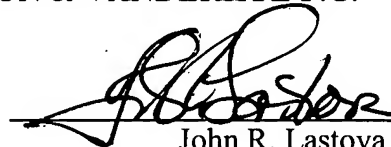
Claim 1 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 12. Allowable claims 5, 16, and 17 have been rewritten in independent claim format. Claim 34 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 36. Allowable claims 39, 43, and 48 have been rewritten in independent claim format. Claim 55 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 57. Allowable claims 61 and 65 have been rewritten in independent claim format.

All the pending claims should now be allowed. The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



John R. Lastova
Reg. No. 33,149

JRL:maa
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100